

Appl. No. : T/JP00/02785
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a transgenic bird heterozygous with respect to the DNA segment produced by allowing the first generation birds to naturally mate or artificially fertilizing the first generation birds;

a transgenic bird heterozygous or homozygous with respect to the DNA segment produced by allowing the heterozygous birds to naturally mate or artificially fertilizing the heterozygous birds; and

a transgenic bird heterozygous or homozygous with respect to the DNA segment produced by continuing to cross the heterozygotic or homozygotic birds through successive generations.

REMARKS

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for examination on the merits and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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1. A plasmid vector comprising:
 - (D1) an integrase gene;
 - (D2) a segment of DNA forming a region for controlling the expression of the integrase gene; and
 - (D3) a segment of DNA serving as an integrase recognition region when integrase catalyzes the integration reaction.
2. A plasmid vector comprising:
 - (D1) an integrase gene;
 - (D2) a segment of DNA forming a region for controlling the expression of the integrase gene;
 - (D3) a segment of DNA serving as an integrase recognition region when integrase catalyzes the integration reaction; and
 - (D4) any DNA segment to be integrated into the genome of host cells.
3. The plasmid vector according to claim 1, wherein the DNA segment (D3) at least includes a connecting sequence of terminal bases formed when one LTR is joined to the other LTR.
4. The plasmid vector according to claim 1, wherein the plasmid vector includes a region formed by two LTRs joined together, and both of the DNA segments (D2) and (D3) are situated within the region formed by the two LTRs joined together.
5. The plasmid vector according to claim 1, wherein a DNA segment encoding a nuclear localization signal is further added to the integrase gene.
6. The plasmid vector according to claim 1, wherein the integrase gene is derived from viruses belonging to Retroviridae.

7. The plasmid vector according to claim 6, wherein the viruses belonging to Retroviridae comprise viruses belonging to subfamily Oncovirinae of Retroviridae.

8. A transformant transformed by using the plasmid vector according to claim 2.

9. A chimeric animal other than humans, wherein the plasmid vector according to claim 2 has been integrated into the genome thereof.

10. A transgenic animal other than humans, wherein the plasmid vector according to claim 2 has been integrated into the genome thereof.

11. A method for producing a bird that has incorporated foreign DNA, the method comprising the steps of:

injecting into an embryo in an egg of a bird the plasmid vector according to claim 2;

allowing the DNA segment (D4) according to claim 2 to integrate into the genome of cells that constitute the embryo; and

hatching the egg to obtain an individual that has incorporated the DNA segment (D4).

12. A method for producing a bird that has incorporated foreign DNA, the method comprising the steps of:

injecting the plasmid vector according to claim 2 into primordial germ cells collected from a bird embryo at an early developmental stage;

allowing the DNA segment (D4) according to claim 2 of the plasmid vector to integrate into the genome of the primordial germ cells;

injecting the primordial germ cells that have incorporated the DNA segment (D4) into an early embryo in an egg laid by other individuals; and

hatching the egg to obtain an individual that has incorporated the DNA segment (D4).

13. (Amended) A method for producing a transgenic bird, wherein the individual according to [any one of] claim 11 [or 12] whose germline cells have incorporated foreign DNA is allowed to naturally mate or artificially fertilized.

14. A method for producing a transgenic animal, wherein the plasmid vector according to claim 2 is injected into a testis of a male non-human vertebrate animal, and the animal having the plasmid vector injected thereinto is allowed to naturally mate or artificially fertilized.

15. A method for producing a useful substance comprising the steps of:
providing the plasmid vector according to claim 2, wherein the segment (D4) of the plasmid vector includes a region encoding a protein and a control region for controlling the expression of the protein;
introducing the plasmid vector into a host cell; and
allowing the DNA segment (D4) to integrate into the genome of the host cell such that the protein encoded by the DNA segment (D4) is expressed in the host cell to produce the useful product.

16. A method for producing a useful substance comprising the steps of:
providing the plasmid vector according to claim 2, wherein the segment (D4) of the plasmid vector includes a region encoding a protein and a control region for controlling the expression of the protein;
introducing the plasmid vector into a bird embryo; and
allowing the DNA segment (D4) to integrate into the genome of cells that constitute the embryo to produce a bird that has incorporated the DNA segment (D4) in somatic cells such that the useful substance is produced in an egg laid by the bird that has incorporated the DNA segment (D4).

17. A method for producing a useful substance comprising the steps of:

providing the plasmid vector according to claim 2, wherein the segment (D4) of the plasmid vector includes a region encoding a protein and a control region for controlling the expression of the protein;

injecting the plasmid vector into an embryo in an egg of a bird;

allowing the DNA segment to integrate into the genome of cells that constitute the embryo;

hatching the egg to obtain a first generation bird the germline cells of which have incorporated the DNA segment; and

obtaining the useful substance in eggs laid by birds selected from the group consisting of:

a transgenic bird heterozygous with respect to the DNA segment produced by allowing the first generation birds to naturally mate or artificially fertilizing the first generation birds;

a transgenic bird heterozygous or homozygous with respect to the DNA segment produced by allowing the heterozygous birds to naturally mate or artificially fertilizing the heterozygous birds; and

a transgenic bird heterozygous or homozygous with respect to the DNA segment produced by continuing to cross the heterozygotic or homozygotic birds through successive generations.

18. A method for producing a useful substance comprising the steps of:

providing the plasmid vector according to claim 2, wherein the segment (D4) of the plasmid vector includes a region encoding a protein and a control region for controlling the expression of the protein;

introducing the plasmid vector into primordial germ cells collected from a bird embryo at an early developmental stage;

allowing the DNA segment of the plasmid vector to integrate into the genome of the primordial germ cells;

injecting the primordial germ cells that have incorporated the DNA segment into an early embryo in an egg laid by other individuals;

hatching the egg to obtain a first generation bird the germline cells of which have incorporated the DNA segment; and

obtaining the useful substance in eggs laid by birds selected from the group consisting of:

a transgenic bird heterozygous with respect to the DNA segment produced by allowing the first generation birds to naturally mate or artificially fertilizing the first generation birds;

a transgenic bird heterozygous or homozygous with respect to the DNA segment produced by allowing the heterozygous birds to naturally mate or artificially fertilizing the heterozygous birds; and

transgenic bird heterozygous or homozygous with respect to the DNA segment produced by continuing to cross the heterozygotic or homozygotic birds through successive generations.